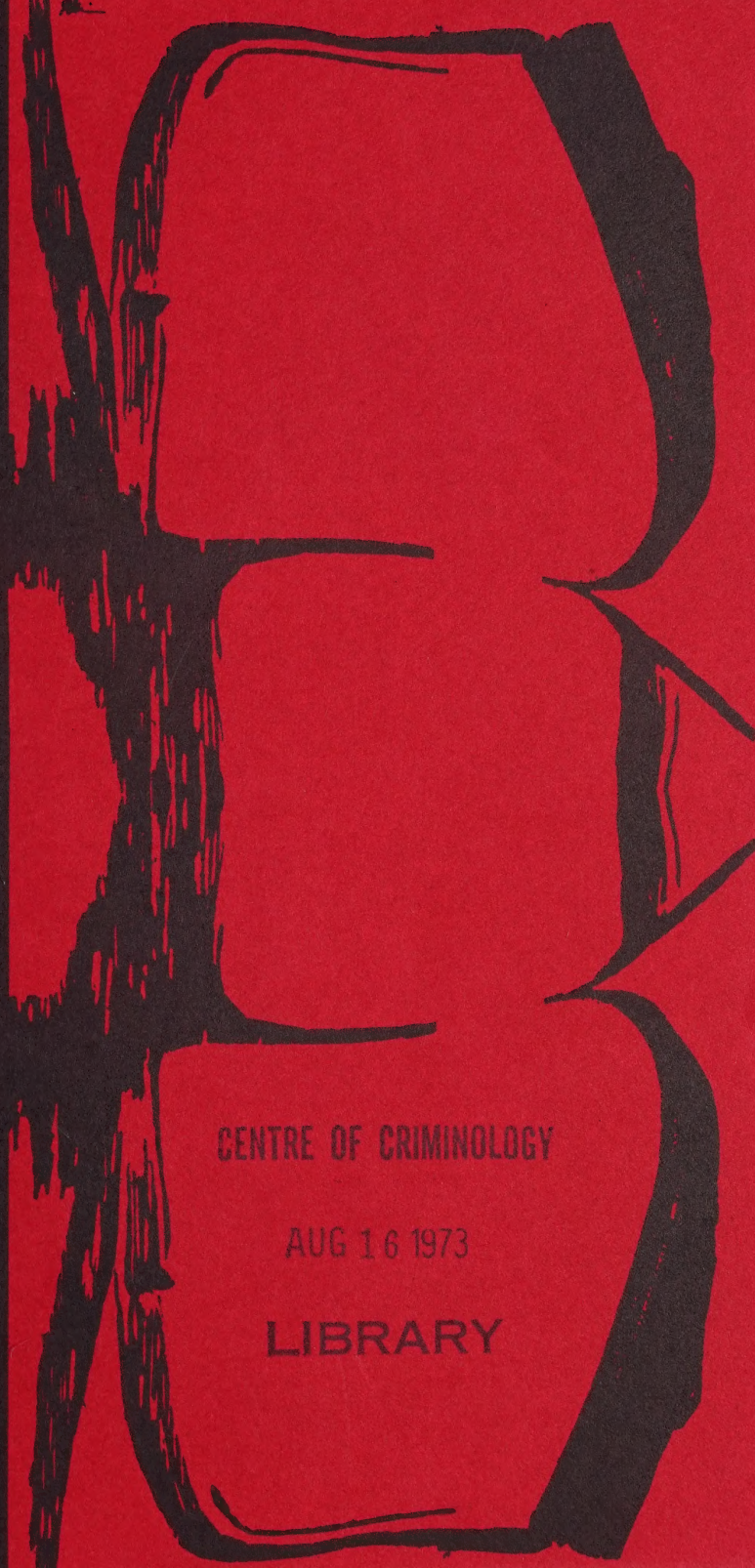




CENTRE OF CRIMINOLOGY

AUG 16 1973

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T R A N S I T I O N

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Subscriptions are available at \$6.00 per year.
Single copies are available at \$.75 each.

Second class mail registration no. 3132

Vol. 1 No. 6

July, 1973.

NOTES AND OTHER CLUTTER

Almost every article coming out of the penitentiaries for this month's and next month's issues ended with an address to corrections workers and the general public akin to "Get off your asses!" Only because it was repetitious was it edited out; nevertheless the feeling that sparked it remains so do the problems, frustrations, and anxieties that sparked the feeling.

Our lead article is the first written by a corrections worker since we volunteered our pages and our confidentiality to them. It shows clearly why an outlet such as Transition is as essential for the worker and professional as it is for the inmate and ex-inmate.

We hear the CPS has again banned correspondence between inmates in different institutions. Seems reasonable in that staff in different institutions aren't too much aware what their fellows are doing either, although they now have a "company" magazine. So have the cons. This one. Anyway, we've been thinking of running a gossip page for a long time; and we aren't particularly pleased to see unwarranted censorship Ever!

MUST READING: Jessica Mitford's, Kind and Usual Punishment, to be published in September by Alfred A. Knopf Inc., and excerpted in the August issue of Harper's Magazine under the title, The Torture Cure.

EDITORIAL

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One of the pleas in last month's editorial was that delegates to the Regina Congress pack in their favorite rhetoric for a few days and get on to dealing with a few of the real problems in the justice system. A few of the delegates did this; not because we asked, I'd guess, but because they don't much bother with rhetoric anyway. As for the majority however, the Congress was used only as an opportunity to wax eloquent about pet programs, personal philosophies, and unsolvable problems.

An example: Asst. Professor James Vantour of Carleton University presented a study of "public cultural attitudes toward recent reforms in Canadian Corrections". In a nation of twenty-odd million people and wide regional variances, one quite legitimately should have expected a

broad-span survey which was representative of Canadians and accounted for regional variances. Vantour's sample: 50 localized people. His career will be helped: he can now list this piece of worthless crap in his vitae. Nobody else was helped; nobody learned anything; nobody could have learned anything.

Be that as it may, some professionals and perennial convention-goers typically use such gatherings for furthering careers, getting drunk, or getting laid, not necessarily in that order. There is nothing wrong with this. Husbands should get away from their wives for awhile. And wives should be rid of their husbands for awhile. There is nothing wrong with this provided the BS is kept outside a convention's formal sessions, particularly a convention of this nature because for many participants it provided rare opportunity to talk to colleagues from around the world, and listen to colleagues from around the world. Hogarth, Kittrie, Price: these are some of the men shaping tomorrow's justice philosophy. Professor Kittrie spoke at an evening session. Unfortunately, he had to compete with the bars and only about a third of the six hundred delegates listened to him. Ironically, most of the third were likely already familiar with Kittrie's writings; and those who failed to attend --- as blissfully ignorant of policies which 15 years

from now will shake their complacent bias as surely as current policies are shaking those of the old line custody staff today.

Ten percent of the delegates and several speakers were offenders or ex-offenders. Many were no less self-seeking, many were no less indifferent. A few paroles were made during the five days, although likely a few were blown too.

Ex-offenders, mostly individuals active in ex-offender organizations of one kind or another, were not much different from their counterparts. Some lobbied, some preached, some seriously criticized, some wryly chuckled at the whole business. This was to be expected too. Significantly however, the lobbyists were not going after personal gain. They weren't scrounging jobs for themselves or fattening their vitae with impressive titles tacked to worthless research papers; most were hunting sources of funding for their organizations' programs or attempting to short circuit bureaucratic snarls that were crippling some of their programs. Others simply attempted to make their programs understood.

To find some meaning and some value in the Regina Congress one must look at the five days not in their espoused terms, their proclaimed *raison d'être*, but in terms of the

Congress being primarily an opportunity to get across to many individuals who otherwise would be unapproachable or inaccessible. Rubbing shoulders with the enemy can do more than transfer lint from one suit to another; it can also exchange understanding, concern, and respect. It can, in effect, make him less an enemy and more an associate. Criticism and crap aside, the Congress was important for this.

SUICIDES ARE NOT THE ISSUE

I feel particularly disheartened that the news media, the general public, and the penitentiary service have keyed on the present rash of suicides at the penitentiary. No one can dispute the gravity of this particular problem. However, the recent suicides are but one symptom of an intolerable system.

I just recently attended a Criminology and Corrections Conference in Regina. The subjects dealt with at the conference were as diverse as the differences in human populations throughout the world. If you consider yourself an academic, then I presume you appreciate the Canadian Congress on Corrections in its entirety. I, for one, was extremely disappointed in the

conference because it did not deal with basic issues in corrections. Basic issues are not related to present incentive programs which apparently serve as rehabilitative programs, but are related to a community's reaction to a criminal. It was extremely difficult to wade through the academic trashcan and the subsequent soul-searching of a number of people attending the conference. One of the best ways to avoid a discussion of basic issues is to sit around and complain to other people how hard your job is, and how everyone is doing such a superb job of working in the difficult area we call 'corrections'.

There is very little public awareness and interest in people who are mentally retarded, simply because the government of our country have dealt with housing mentally retarded people and have kept them off the streets. Only the cream of the crop of mentally retarded people are allowed to take advantage of living unit areas, with adequate recreation and adequate contact with the community. In penal institutions the cream of the crop, supposedly, get the 'rehabilitative' programs. The other more difficult criminals are merely held in institutions. The one basic difference between an institution for mentally retarded people and an institution for criminals is that no one pretends to rehabilitate the seriously mentally retarded. On the other hand, every criminal should be rehabilitated, and in fact it is assumed that institutions can rehabilitate criminals and expect

that rehabilitation process to occur. What everyone is asking is, "why are these institutions not rehabilitating offenders?"

No penal institution can provide the means or the facilities to assist an individual to readjust in the community. Mentally retarded people are sent to training schools to be held. Criminals are sent to penal institutions to be rehabilitated. In practice however, criminals are sent to penal institutions to be held as well. Theoretically, a judge sentences a man to a penal institution as punishment for a crime. Practically speaking, he is sentenced to a penal institution for punishment. The result is that custody staff and officials of penal institutions are unaware of their real role. Is the guard the "keeper of the keys" or is he the "punisher"? In practice he is the punisher. On that basis, how can anyone assume that a penal institution is anything but a holding unit and a place of punishment for people who have deviated in their acceptance of present laws?

That particular issue was not dealt with at the Canadian Congress on Corrections, nor were some of the crucial issues such as, what is the Solicitor General's Department doing about the overcrowded conditions in institutions? Granted everyone bayed at the moon about how overcrowded institutions were, but alternatives to that overcrowding were not dealt with. The penitentiary service is getting a considerable amount of mileage out of the recent suicides. Those

suicides at Saskatchewan Penitentiary will be meaningless, unless the investigation encompasses the total system. No one challenges the unbelievably dehumanizing experience of being locked in mail, because it is difficult to accept. No one challenges the role of custody staff, because the role is difficult to define. No one challenges the decisions of judges in terms of sentencing, because there are apparently no alternatives. No one challenges the fact that the R.C.M.P. spend a tremendous amount of money in operating a plane "charter service" to the north to pick up and return criminals who have broken the law, with offences such as having an open bottle of liquor. No one challenges the discrimination felt by ex-offenders as they re-enter the community, because we have no right to challenge and confront landlords and employers, groups and organizations with their obvious discrimination.

In a corrections system that is so obviously confusing, priorities are not placed on honesty. It is better to be dishonest and manipulate the system, than it is to confront the system. Small confrontations occur and they are dealt with adequately by undermining the credibility of the people that confront that system, rather than meeting the issues that are raised head-on. Organized crime is deemed corruptible in our society; the corrections system in our country is equally corruptible. However, this corruption is legal-

ized by governments and communities. Wheeling and dealing in the corrections system begins in the court room and ends with a man's release to the community. It is a crying shame that virtually no one has the guts to confront the corrections system in an honest manner and assess programs and institutions for what they are worth, not for what they are supposed to be. Penal institutions are garbage dumps for individuals who either do not or cannot make it on the street. What's all this garbage about rehabilitation in institutions? Let's make those garbage dumps a little more humane place to live for the people we obviously don't want in society! Let's talk about rehabilitation after a man is released into the community, not while he's being subjected to the whimsical rehabilitation processes in institutions. Let's stop being pansies to be swayed to and fro by institutional authorities! Let's stop being pampered and seduced into wasting out time supporting a system that relies on theoretical interpretation to survive! The well-worn phrase "we are trying to do our best" is not enough. Who cares what the hell the common denominator is between the suicides in Saskatchewan Penitentiary? That investigation is merely a plot to divert all attention from the cancer that exists in the Corrections system.

The mode of the day, as far as the general public is concerned, is "how can we become involved?" You can become involved in

any bloody way that you wish, but to become meaningfully involved, you have to resign from the Citizens' Advisory Committee. You have to resign from the Senate Inquiry on Parole. You have to resign from the position as escort on T.L.A.'s and you have to challenge the system head-on. You have to go to court and question the judge in his decision to sentence a man to jail. You have to stand at the airport and question the R.C.M.P. officer who herds handcuffed criminals onto planes. You have to get into institutions and sit on decisions of whether a person should or should not get a temporary leave of absence, parole, or transfer to another institution. You have to walk into the offices of the National Parole Service and ask them why they did or did not give that particular individual a parole, or in fact, why they are cutting down on the paroles given. You have to confront an inmate or an ex-inmate, and ask him why he is prepared to put up with being subjected to the horrors of a penal institution. You have to walk into the offices of the news media and ask them why they are always blind to the plain truth. And you have to ask yourself why you haven't the guts to become meaningfully involved in changing a process that could be functional and could be meaningful for the initial purpose of dealing with law offenders.

The corrections system is doomed to perpetual corruption and confusion unless

there are enough people who are willing to demand the answers and the plain truth.

LETTER FROM RHEIN (?)

When you get your hackles up about injustice to prisoners you must not lose sight of the fact that Henry Ford's workers went on strike because of the fact that only old newspapers were to be found in the washrooms when they went to enjoy their "toilet time" break.

Somewhere prisoners went on strike because they had access to black and white television rather than color --- and only 2 channels! We have one channel black and white television in Rhein. We also still use the two-holers referred to on page 22 of Transition (April issue) and we can't strike.

H.P. Mengerling
Rhein, Sask.

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION NEWS

Some progress was made at the Regina Congress toward formation of a national offender/ex-offender organization.

From several meeting of offenders and ex-offenders a National Conference Committee has been formed. It consists of six members, representing each of the five regions of Canada, and a chairman. The five regions are British Columbia, the Prairies, Ontario, Quebec, and the Maritimes.

The National Conference Committee has a twofold purpose:

- 1) to organize a Canadian conference on the concept of self-help and the role of the ex-offender in the criminal justice system;
- 2) to do organizational work in relation to a national committee of ex-offenders. It is proposed at this point that the election of this committee will take place at the national conference.

It has also been proposed that each member will work in his respective region to contact offenders, ex-offenders, self-

help groups, private agencies, and government departments whose primary objectives are within the criminal justice system. A meeting of the Committee in Ottawa in late July will determine the approach in carrying out these objectives.

In order that each regional representative will be able to represent the broadest possible range of views, we suggest that all concerned organizations and individuals contact them as soon as possible. Not only will this enable the Committee to better assess objectives and approaches, it will ensure that all organizations and individuals are represented.

Below are the names and addresses of the regional representatives charged with laying the groundwork for a National Conference:

Douglas Dunn,
Acting Chairman,
10838 74th Avenue
Edmonton, Alta.

Prairies: Bill Hudson
1319 Kramer Blvd.,
Regina, Sask.

Ontario: Rick D. Carter
297 Carlton St.,
Toronto, Ont.

British Columbia: Thomas R. Gordon
5471 Ormidale St.
Vancouver 16, B.C.

Maritimes: Ray Webb,
Acting Secretary
209 - 5429 Inglis St.
Halifax, N.S.

Quebec: Roger Larche,
20 Cousineau
Hull, P.Q.

"THERAPY" OFFERS FALSE PROMISE

"We are expecting too much from our criminal justice system; we expect it to safeguard our lives and properties, to enforce our morals, to furnish our social services and to guarantee our health. No system can meet all these expectations. Unless we establish narrower and more rational expectations, criminal justice will continue as a failure," said Dr. Nicholas N. Kittrie of the American University, Washington, D.C., before the Canadian Congress of Criminology and Corrections in Regina.

Dr. Kittrie warned the Congress that the criminal justice system in North America has

been overreaching into areas of human behaviour that require no governmental intervention. He asserted that of more than 10 million annual arrests in the U.S. more than half are for victimless offenses---such as drunkenness, vagrancy, prostitution, gambling, and drug violations. "We must have new priorities in the criminal justice system---we cannot expect the police, the courts and corrections to cure all social ills," Dr. Kittrie said.

In his address Dr. Kittrie said: "Neither would it do to label all deviants as 'ill' rather than as 'evil' and confine them for treatment instead of punishment. The word 'therapy' has been often thrown around as a cure-all. But indeed therapy is not available for many of the groups we seek to label as 'ill'. Often 'treatment' becomes an excuse for even greater injustices than punishment. If you can label a deviant as ill you might be able to impose on him even harsher social sanctions than if you set out to punish him. Those declared ill have been locked up for indeterminate periods of time, they have been lobotomized and sterilized. We have not dared do this to prisoners.

"We have been oversold on the promise of therapy. But what prisoners need most are job opportunities and receptive social settings, not a manipulation of their brains. In the future we must concentrate on the reform of the social environment. If we wish to have a pluralistic society, we must be more tolerant of behaviour

which does not hurt others. We cannot enforce therapy upon those with whose life styles we disagree unless they directly hurt others. Therapy must be free for those who desire it --- otherwise we use the name of therapy in vain and it becomes an oppressive tool. There are four times as many people committed to compulsory therapy in the U.S. than are confined in prisons.

Calling for environmental reforms, Dr. Kittrie said that social welfare needs should be separated from social defense needs. "We should have shelters for alcoholics, where they could come and go freely. This would be better than sentencing them to jail or seeking to cure them involuntarily. Runaway children need not be sent away to reform schools. Instead we should seek to make regular education more interesting for them. We should make crime unprofitable for organized criminals by legal controls of gambling, alcohol, prostitution, and drugs.

"Therapy is too expensive and usually not available. It can serve some social functions, much as punishment and the compensation of victims can. But the major thrust of the future must go into making the social conditions less favourable to criminality, rather than seek to change our society into a psychiatric behaviour control world of Clockwork Orange," Dr. Kittrie said.

**LOSER WINS:
The Natives in Prison**

by Wm. L. Bell

PART ONE

Imprisonment of natives, Canada's ultimate in racism, is proving to be the main instrument used by natives to fight discrimination.

The prison provides a fine training and proving ground for natives because of the inescapable discrimination from the staff and white inmates. This is experienced every day by every native inmate, though it may only be in forms of patronizing or paternalism, hence the reasons to fight back, the learned objectives, are never forgotten --- they are reinforced.

In prison natives learn how to deal with inflexible bureaucrats. This is learned through the prison system because of the microcosmic totality of the prison system. The structure of the system is a compact totalitarian state in which a prisoner can see the entire structure from base level to the top. Because the "system" is a smaller simplified bureaucracy the native deals with known individuals rather than vague government departments. In prisons the native has

learned not only to organize himself, but to organize others. This was demonstrated in BC Penitentiary in 1969 when the Native Brotherhood sparked a sit-down strike to support demands to allow them personal choice of their group sponsor rather than submit to acceptance of an administration-appointed puppet.

To organize others the native has only to demonstrate common concerns and show the reasons for common concern. The natives have used such tactics as starting a "Native Brotherhood" to make totem poles. Making totem poles is a harmless pastime; therefore, they were allowed to organize. Once an organization is going the administration must allow the group to continue or face a now-collective front in open confrontation.

The native political movement has moved from within prison walls to the community. The Native Council of Canada, for example, has former inmate Joe Blyan on their board of directors. The Native Councillings Services of Alberta, to name only one of many organizations, has hired Roy Naigle to work inside Drumheller Penitentiary. Starting only with what they learned in prison there is a long list of those who are developing potential political and bureaucratic power.

Today the militant native is a knowledgeable, skilled activist. The bands in southern Alberta have moved their children out of the white school system. In LaRonge, northern Saskatchewan, a

government car was burned in protest. The Native Youth Movement travels, politicizes, and organizes across Canada.

Communications has enhanced native education. Although the injustices are being brought out, only reluctantly are they being rectified. The book Halfbreed, by Maria Campbell, tells of her rape at the age of thirteen by three RCMP. A native woman in Lloydminster was forced to perform fellatio on a Mountie --- his only penalty was a small fine. Obviously injustices still abound.

An article in the New Breed reports on Cornsell Portage where 60 people live in deplorable conditions. Their welfare worker has never seen them. Nor are there medical or health facilities in the locality.

With natives providing 90% of northern Saskatchewan's population, it is hard to tell them to "forgive those who trespass against you" when the trespassers own the jails, own the police, own the stores, own the jobs, own the land, and control the welfare cheques.

Consciousness of discrimination is not a new thing. Tatonka Yotonka, "Sitting Bull", once was quoted as saying, "What treaty has the Redman broken? Not one. What treaty that the white man ever made with us has he kept? Not one. When I was a boy, the Dakota owned the world; the sun rose and set on their land. They sent ten

thousand men to battle. Where are the warriors today? Who slew them? Where are our lands? Who owns them?

"What white man can say I ever stole his land or a penny of his money? Yet they say I am a thief. What white woman however lovely, was ever held captive or insulted by me? Yet they say I am a bad Indian. Who has ever seen me beat my wife or children? What law have I broken?

"Is it wrong for me to love my own? Is it wicked for me because my skin is red? Because I am a Sioux? Because I was born where my father lived? Because I would die for my people and my country?"

The history of the Indian is a subject of romantic interest from a sociological and a historical point of view. The Indian had a genuine cooperative existence and a reverence for his land which has not been duplicated. He practiced ecology, spiritualism, and a work ethic never again matched. Every tribal member worked or hunted and nothing was wasted when killed. No form of animal life was depleted. The children, aged, deformed, and retarded were treated as special people and given a special place in the tribe.

The métis is perhaps the most complex of all native groups. Discriminated against by both the white and native societies, the métis are also the losers in the political battles of the white governments.

The native and métis are as divided a group as are the white of the world. But they are searching for a common front. They will never find it because they are forgetting, "different people, different ways". Co-existence is the only way for the redman, not assimilation. As the Canadian wheat farmer and the Chinese rice farmer are different, so are the Cree and the Iroquois, the Blackfoot and the métis.

Some natives are political anarchists such as Dick Wilson, the chief of the Pine Ridge Reserve in South Dakota. Some are revolutionaries such as Russell Means, American Indian Movement leader in South Dakota. Another segment may be regarded as traditionalists. Such a man is the Ute chief whose conservatism was reflected in the statement, "You people, white people, you have lost your way. Us people, Indian people, we have our way. Different ways. You people don't take our way. You find your way. We live on this mountain together. Good. Different people. Different ways. We are all here together. You find your way --- good for all of us. We help you find your way. My friend, see this spruce? This spruce is holy, sacred tree. My friend, see this. This earth is your mother. Take good care of her. The sun, that one. Up there. He's our father. Remember. That's all!"

In order to try to understand the native and métis one must stop mental translation into white terms. One must "Think Red".

What do they want? Self-determination, control of their destiny without a white government. Their farming and fishing land returned. Unrealistic? They can never go back to the old ways --- we have given them too much of our culture for that. Perhaps, but unless they are given the opportunity to do or die trying to return to the old ways, the fire in the hearts and eyes of a great many natives will become the fire to light more government cars and buildings.

Rifles are now the common weapon of our "landlords", the natives. Can we afford war in our cities just because we don't want to pay our rent? Give the native complete autonomy and let him decide his destiny: that is what he wants.

PITY THE PRAIRIE DOPE FIEND

Pity the prairie dope fiend, he is a victim of the press and a victim of a criminal code that does not recognize regional differences in the quality and, therefore, the potency of dope. Worse, he is his own victim too, because usually he doesn't recognize the differences either, unless he wanders out to the West coast and promptly OD's on his customary dosage. Kind of a lousy way to get the message.

We're talking about hard drugs lightly but seriously. Heroin, coke, morphine ... stuff like that. Not grass or hash or acid.

Until the last few years there wasn't much hard stuff in the prairies. Some is creeping in now, mostly into Calgary and Edmonton. Saskatoon can boast about three bona fide addicts. Regina maybe twice that many. This is one aspect of why prairie dope fiend is a term used ironically by hypes. The other aspect is quality of the dope. Most of the heroin, for instance, comes into the prairies already cut for street consumption because it usually comes in with independant dealers and in relatively small quantities. But alas, before it's sold here it's cut some more, hence is pretty insipid stuff by the time it finds a way into a vein. Add to this that it comes in sporadically; an addict would have difficulty starting a habit let alone sustaining it. Consequently there aren't many hardcore dope fiends here. But there's prairie dope fiends, those who elsewhere would be regarded as just chipping.

Well, all that was yesterday. Today in the prairie there are more hardcore addicts. They're not addicted to heroin or morphine or opium or coke. They don't go down to the slums or slink through alleys in eternal search for the pusher-man with the balloon in his mouth. They go to the doctor with the neat white prescription pad on his desk and he addicts them to methadone.

In the prairies there are more methadone addicts than heroin addicts. This isn't because methadone

maintenance treatment is an effective program for heroin addiction, not in the prairies. It's because methadone is being fed to people who aren't heroin addicts and who because of supply and quality of heroin here, probably couldn't become heroin addicts, even if they think they are already..

At least one doctor we've heard about is rumoured to hand out methadone to patients without testing them to learn whether they even use heroin; he just takes their word for it. His brother must own a funeral parlor. Methadone has become popular enough on the streets that it now has substantial illicit market value. How convenient in a region starved for heroin but aswarm with potential and make-believe addicts! As Kurt Vonnegut Jr. has written, "So it goes."

THE CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Legitimation of Deceit

More and more the Citizen's Advisory Committee is becoming a committee anathema to the inmates of Saskatchewan Penitentiary. Moreover, whenever this committee is discussed its achievements are referred to with open hostility. Seldom, if ever, do inmates view this committee in positive terms. Increasingly, the committee, in general, and the past and present Chairman in particular

are looked upon with open, malignant enmity.

During the past six months this body of "discreet, reliable and acceptable" men and women have been the subject of mounting criticism. Certainly, at times this criticism has been unwarranted, at least in terms of intensity. On the other hand, and I suggest more often than the former, not only has the criticism been valid, it has been well intentioned and sadly needed. Yet this criticism, however well meaning, has gone ignored --- the Citizens' Advisory Committee would seem, by its attitude at least, to be above suggestion, And why not? Surely a committee "invited (to serve) by the penitentiary director", himself answerable only to God, soon comes to believe it is just a little lower than the angels.

At the Congress of Criminology and Corrections held during the last week of June, the Citizens' Advisory Committee, deciding to cash in on the opportunity to gain positive support, offered a panel presentation to the Selected Papers section of the Congress. What followed defies description --- a spectacle of confusion and anomaly; and of greater significance, the final disappearance of all civility on the part of the panel. Picture, if you will, the Chairman of the Citizens' Advisory Committee rising in the middle of the panel discussion, and leaving

the auditorium rather than attempt to answer the questioning from the floor. And the Chairman of the panel, himself a prominent television personality, finding himself so threatened that his only means of defence was one of personal insult to two delegates to the Congress. Interestingly, this gentleman left Regina immediately following the completion of the panel --- whether this was his intention prior to his performance is open to conjecture.

And who were the two delegates with sufficient information to cause the panel to withdraw in defeat rather than attempt to answer the questions put before them? They were two inmates of the penitentiary. Two inmates, who, it would seem, rather than allow them to continue to pervert and distort the concept of advisory function further, decided to submit to the risk of administrative reprisal and speak out. The panel, for reasons known only to themselves, either could not, or would not answer the charges placed before them. It can only be concluded that the charges laid, if answered, would prove too great an embarrassment to the Citizens' Advisory Committee or the administration they so faithfully serve.

Yet the Advisory Committee's performance was not completely negative. There was one small spark of hope that perhaps this committee

may, in time, evolve into a viable force within the institution. Surprisingly this ray of light was provided by the two "token" women on the committee. Their support to the two inmate delegates was vague and lacked direction, but their support was there nevertheless. It is interesting to speculate as to what might have taken place had these two ladies been in control of the panel. Perhaps what developed into a disastrous experience for all concerned might have evolved into a meaningful learning experience for those present, who were, after all, there to learn.

SESSIONAL PAPERS

Canadian Congress of Corrections, 1973

Subscribers may obtain free copies of any of the following list of papers by writing Transition. Each of these papers was delivered during the Regina congress:

Price, R.L., Bringing the Rule of Law to Corrections.

Hudson, Wm., The Glass Bead Game.

Carter, G., The Changing Role of the
Correctional Worker

Scott, G.D., The Mentally Disordered Offender:
His Identification and Mens Rea

Ostiguy, E., Emotional Deprivation: Prison's
Built-in Defect

Collins, B., Value of the Ex-Inmate to the
Community

Allardice, E.M., The Community and Shoplifting

McPherson, A., The Inception of Community Cor-
rections for Women in Edmonton

Chalifoux, R., The Reserve Law System

Antilla, I., Developments in Criminology and
Criminal Policy in Scandinavia

St. Leonard's Society of Canada; Summary of Pro-
posed Brief on Community Corrections
Councils

Russon, G.W., A Look at the Future of Corrections

Glinfort, E.K., The Dilemma of Correctional
Institutions: Custody or Treatment?

Outerbridge, W.R., In Search of New Perspectives

Kittrie, N.N., A History of Social Response to
Deviance (or the Flowering and
Decline of the Therapeutic State?)

NEXT MONTH: Self-help Groups: Monstrous Put-on, New Cult, or Effective Corrections Instrument? and The Corrections Worker as Social Deviant.

THE CANADIAN PENITENTIARY SERVICE

Lesson in Squandering

Up to the month of June, for this year, the Canadian Penitentiary Service had been paying \$50,000 per month in overtime pay for employees of the Sask. Pen. (254 employees total). Then, following new directives for staffing in penitentiaries, overtime pay, at time-and-a-half and double-time, skyrocketed. Unofficial sources place the current cost of overtime wages for this penitentiary alone at over \$80,000 per month!

With the present level of unemployment, it seems a shame that Federal money is not being more evenly distributed. Unemployed people are living at a poverty level while guards, unskilled laborers, are taking in well over ten thousand dollars a year --- much of it in overtime pay. While it may be nice to see someone getting so much money, even if it is at the taxpayers' expense, there could certainly be some sharing of the wealth.

Furthermore, staff members are sick and tired of working overtime!

When an officer was needed on an emergency basis one day this month, the squad leader had to phone thirty-two officers who were off-duty before he could find one that would agree to come to work on overtime pay.

Some of the officers are here so much that there are rumours (jokingly) that they've given up their homes or apartments. They live here now. But guards are getting burned out on working.

Refusal of custodial officers to keep working long hours is causing administrators to request shop formen and training instructors, all highly paid personnel, to work overtime. A disgruntled shop instructor recently commented, "They won't spend money to buy tools we need in the shop, but they gladly pay me double-time to work on custody."

A private company operating in the manner of the Penitentiary Service in this institution would go bankrupt in six months. Why are top administrators wilfully squandering tax-

payer' money, causing disgruntlement among their line staff, and contributing to unemployment while they complain of a staff shortage? Frankly, the answer eludes me. (Perhaps because I'm not a trained bureaucrat) When asked about the staff shortage, upper administrators always answer, "We're in the process of hiring." They're always in the process of hiring--just as, I suppose, a glacier is always in the process of moving downhill.

\$80,000 per month could hire 80 new staff at \$1,000 per month. This level of wages could mean professionals--graduates in the social sciences who are now having a hard time finding a job in some cases--taking over the treatment of inmates. (Oh horrors!" cries the authoritarian) It could mean a major revolution--a meaningful one--within this penitentiary. Custody staff, keeping their present number (107 Cx's), could man the perimeter very effectively to ensure against escapes.

At least it could mean an improvement in the bureaucratic vaudeville act that's been going on here at fantastic expense.

THE MEMOIRS OF SLOW GEORGE

Back in the days before inmate hobbywork was called occupational therapy, in fact back before there was even hobbywork --- not counting bar sawing, bull baiting, and tunnel engineering --- some of us used to have pets.

These were unofficial pets, of course ... our Robert Strouds were few and far between. Our San Quentins and Alcatrazes aren't though. Anyway, we had pets. Some cons had cockroaches. One con had crabs ... as pets I mean, he used to try and train them. I used to have mice; little defenceless grey things ... they all looked the same ... I had to paint numbers on them and keep them in separate little boxes so that I could tell them apart. Worked out OK though.

Before I get into how I trained my mice, maybe I should explain that the prisons all have lots of mice, I guess because most of them are so old and decrepit, and quite a few have cockroaches and crabs too.

I started catching mice and training them because they used to keep me awake at night. They'd make a lot of noise, steal my scraps of extra food and just generally bug me. I finally said to myself, "Slow George, they must be made to behave!" So I caught them, numbered them, and put them in little boxes. "Mice, you shall not mess with me! You shall not only pay for bugging all-powerful me, you shall also be paid to me for making you pay."

Well, now I had them. First I decided on a little sensory deprivation on them. I kept

in their little boxes. I fed them the exact same thing every day. I made sure the boxes were too small for them to move around much and I made sure they were always dark. And all the while I said to them over and over again, "Behave, you bastards, behave." Some of those mice really freaked, but some of the others started to shape up. I let the second group go. They'd remember those little cubicles and never come back to bother me again.

As for the other bunch, I laid on a stress assessment trip. I threw them all into one big box with nothing to do but pick at each other twenty-four hours a day. I kept a light on them all the time too, and got them fighting amongst themselves. The ones that didn't fight I figured were OK, so finally I'd let them go. Not only did they keep away from me after that, they kept away from their fellow mice too. Better a half-crazy hermit mouse than a friendly pesty mouse.

The ones that were still left went back into the little boxes for a month or so, until I got together some Anectine and Prolixin. By now I sorta figured, "What the hell, cure 'em or kill 'em; either way they're going to behave the way I want." That Anectine was really neat stuff. It makes the mouse think he's suffocating because it screws up his breathing. I guess even a crummy no-account mouse doesn't like to think it's dying, because when I told them to clean up their act or get more Anectine, a lot of them did.

The ones that didn't got the Prolixin trip. This stuff is the real kill or cure goody. It's only a tranquilizer, but by now the leftover mice were nuts enough to need one so that they'd be vulnerable enough for me to work on their heads. The best part of this Prolixin is the side effects. The manufacturer says it can cause "the inducement of a 'catatonic-like' state, nausea, loss of appetite, headache, constipation, blurred vision, glaucoma, bladder paralysis, impotency, liver damage, fatal cardiac arrest, and cerebral edema." Best part is that even when I took the mice off the drug a lot of the weird ailments, the ones that didn't kill outright, were incurable.

It's been a long time since mice messed with me because they know I made them behave! Funny when you think of it; though, how much like a mouse is a con. Maybe this'll be my bit of wisdom for this instalment.

There'll be lots more next month. The Transition guys want me to start answering people's mail next month. This'll be a sort of Advice to the Inmate column full of useful hints and other good stuff, so anybody who has a problem should just drop a line to Slow George, that's me, at the Transition address and next month I'll start laying more lore on everybody.

So 'til then, this is Slow George, reminding everybody to keep the squeaks out of the;subculture.

CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY AWARD

Transition's CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY AWARD this month goes to Solicitor General Warren Allmand for his unstinting dedication to the principle that political expedience pre-empts people on all occasions.

That Mr. Allmand chose not to attend the Regina Congress, where he might have had the misfortune to learn a little something about corrections in Canada, was astuteness most meritorious, but not enough to earn our award.

The award is his because he chose instead to linger in Ottawa, the better to push through the House the obscenity euphemised as a bill to abolish capital punishment.

Mr. Allmand recognizes that in the Canadian political arena there is nothing that cannot be compromised into absurdity, even lives. Fortunately, Mr. Allmand realizes that twenty years solic in our existing penitentiaries is a much more excruciating torment to a convicted murderer than death itself.

Not for granting life to the otherwise condemned do you receive our award, Mr. Allmand, but for granting the suffering of life --- and only the suffering.

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